



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**STEREOENCEPHALOTOMY**—Part II, Clinical and Physiological Applications (Monographs in Biology and Medicine—Volume II, edited by E. A. Spiegel)—E. A. Spiegel, M.D., Professor of Experimental and Applied Neurology and Head of the Department of Experimental Neurology, and H. T. Wycis, M.D., F.A.C.S., Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery, both of Temple University School of Medicine and Hospital, Philadelphia. Grune and Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, 1962. 504 pages, (no price quoted).

This second volume concerns the clinical and physiological applications of stereoencephalotomy. It is a monumental work which summarizes some fourteen years of careful investigation of all types of stereotaxic surgery. The authors have compiled a most complete record of their results of therapy lesions of the thalamus and basal ganglia as well as pain and several types of space-occupying intracranial tumors. Although the number of cases in each category is not large enough to be of statistical value, the material is presented in great detail and the conclusions drawn seem to be based upon a truly scientific analysis without attempting to further any one specific method or procedure.

The monograph is to be highly recommended as a source of reference but is much too detailed to be considered as a text for anyone not already well founded in the anatomical and physiological aspects of the subject. I was much impressed by the vast amount of information contained in this work which reflects the years of basic research on this subject by the authors.

Stereotaxic surgery has come into its own during the past few years as a result of the outstanding therapeutic effect in Parkinsonism but the method is being rapidly expanded and, in the future, will undoubtedly supplant many of the present day surgical operations. It is possible that in the future almost all neurosurgical procedures will be done using some form of stereotaxic operation.

C. HUNTER SHelden, M.D.

\* \* \*

**ATLAS OF PLASTIC SURGERY**—Second Edition, revised and enlarged—Morton I. Berson, M.D., formerly Director of the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, The Downtown Hospital and Pan-American Clinic, New York City, and Plastic Surgery Staff, Manhattan General Hospital. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N.Y., 1963. 336 pages, \$23.00.

This attractive hard-bound 336-page book is profusely illustrated with both line drawings and half-tone drawings which are of good quality. Photographic illustrations are less distinct and in some cases the post-operative photos appear definitely fuzzy, or taken from a different angle or with different lighting from the primary photos.

The author, Morton I. Berson, M.D., does not list in his qualifications certification by any specialty board nor membership in any of the more widely recognized plastic surgical societies, nor is there any mention of any connection with

any medical school teaching program. In the preface to the book, Dr. Berson states that this compendium is based largely on thirty years of personal experience. The book would seem to be directed toward "both general surgeons and specialists encountering problems of plastic repair in their practice." Dr. Berson further states that "to this end they will need authoritative advice, based on experience and indoctrination into the meticulous and precise surgical approaches and on insight into the artistic requirements. This book attempts to fill these needs."

To the qualified plastic surgeon, this book gives nothing in the way of significant help since the content of the book in no way exceeds the most elementary plastic surgical training. For the general surgeon to attempt to adopt the procedures based only on the techniques and cases illustrated would seem foolhardy. To the general practitioner or non-surgical specialist, the book would offer little except illustration of the fact that such procedures are done by plastic surgeons. The book would be of little or no significant value to a medical student, and one begins to wonder then, to whom this book is directed.

The Atlas is filled with examples of out-moded procedures—some of which have never worked, such as the "sliding flap" for webbed fingers, and such antiquated and ill-advised procedures as pocket-grafts covering the hand with pedicle skin. Six pages are devoted to illustrating reconstruction of an index finger, which any qualified hand surgeon would say was contraindicated in the first place. Another group of illustrations are devoted to removal of a lipoma of a thumb.

The "Instrumentation for Rhinoplasty," for example, as illustrated, takes up several pages and includes many instruments of doubtful usefulness, and is unnecessarily complicated. A technique is discussed for total rhinoplasty with reconstruction by pedicle grafts, but significantly no case material is presented illustrating these procedures. The technique of otoplasty is unimaginative and is of the type that is felt to give inferior results by destroying normal ear architecture. This would be evident in lateral views of these ears, but these views have not been shown in the text. The inclusion of a page or two describing corneal transplants again makes one wonder to whom this book is directed. Certainly no one but a highly qualified ophthalmologist with special training in corneal transplantation should perform such surgery. It is far outside the scope of normal plastic surgery. Illustrations of rhinoplasties and face-lift techniques are not appreciably different from routine operations performed by most plastic surgeons.

In summary, it seems that this atlas is of doubtful value as a meaningful addition to the plastic surgical literature. Its purchase is recommended by those who are particularly interested in the work of Dr. Berson.